

**Church of Saint Philip Neri
Pennsburg, PA 18073
September 23, 2018**



Rev. Robert A. Roncase, Pastor
Deacon Michael J. Franks
Deacon Patrick J. Kennedy
Deacon Mark J. Meinzer, Retired
Rev. Edmond J. Speitel, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. John J. Scarcia, Pastor Emeritus
Locke Highleyman, Business Manager
Shirley Misiak, Office Manager
Catherine E. Faust, Director of Music
Wendy Benner, Coordinator of PREP/Religious ED
Joan Lampart, Coordinator of Parish Outreach
Tom Dewees, Director Catholic Family Life Center
Dianne Linden, Administrative Assistant CFLC
Anita Fuhs, Youth Minister

Parish Phone Numbers:

Rectory	215.679.9275
Youth Ministry	267.733.2572
Religious Education/PREP	215.679.7839
Catholic Family Life Center	215.679.2237
Parish Hall	215.679.8116
Parish Outreach	215.679.9275

Fax Numbers:

Rectory	215.679.0386
Religious Education/PREP	215.679.8370
Catholic Family Life Center	215.679.8370

Church & Rectory Address:

1325 Klinerd Rd; Pennsburg 18073

Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Email Address: ofcmgr@spnparish.org
Website Address: www.spnparish.org
Parish Outreach email: parishoutreach@spnparish.org

Religious Education Office Hours:

26 E. Sixth Street, East Greenville, PA 18041
Monday & Friday: Offices are closed
Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Wednesday: 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Email address: prep@spnparish.org

Neri Center Address

575 Main Street, East Greenville, PA 18041

Catholic Family Life Center Address

26 E. Sixth Street, East Greenville, PA 18041
Email address: tdeweese@spncflc.org
Website Address: www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com

Youth Ministry Office hours: (East Greenville)

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wednesday: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Email address: youthministry@spnparish.org

ROSARY: Prayed in the Chapel

Monday's at 1:00 PM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION in St. Anne Chapel

Monday – Friday:

9:00 am - 7:00 PM

Saturday:

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

FIRST FRIDAY

10:00 AM - 7:00 PM followed by Benediction.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

For a floral arrangement to be placed at the altar, please call the rectory.

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday – Vigil Mass – 5:00 PM

Sunday – 7:30 AM; 10:00 AM

Holy Day Masses as announced

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE - St. Anne Chapel

The Chapel is open Monday thru Saturday until 7:00 PM for your visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Daily Mass is celebrated in the Chapel attached to the rectory:

NO Communion Service or Mass on Monday's.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 8:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 4:00 – 4:45 PM

or: at the Rectory BY APPOINTMENT.

BAPTISMS: Please call the Rectory to schedule.

2nd Sunday Baptisms are held **at** the 10 AM Mass

3rd Sunday Baptisms are held at 11:30 AM

SPONSORS: Sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation need to be at least 16 years of age, be baptized and receive the Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation, attend Mass weekly, and if married, be in a valid Marriage.

PRE-JORDAN CLASSES

Call the Rectory Office to schedule.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements should be made at least SIX MONTHS before the date of the wedding.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Stop by or call the rectory between 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Also, children who turn 26 years of age or complete higher education and continue to reside within our area should become individually registered parishioners.

SHUT-INS

Call the Parish Outreach Office.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Call the Rectory Office.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are the Catholic Parish Community of St. Philip Neri, answering Christ's call to discipleship through Word, Sacrament and Service. We proclaim God's hope and love to all.

**Serving at Mass
Extraordinary Ministers**

**Sept. 30
Lectors**

5:00 PM - Judy Horvath
Matt Horvath
Priest
Deacon
Marci Jaman
Janet Kendra

S. Hunsberger
R. Leidy

7:30 AM - Joan Pongia
Mary Weber
Priest
Deacon
Beverly Bowser
Cameron Bowser

P. Frank
C. Mullaney

10:00 AM - Dawn McCausland
Theresa Walker
Priest
Deacon
Andrew Souder
Mary Souder

M. Gehringer
E. Koch

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 23, 2018**

Monday, September 24
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM - Adoration in the Chapel

Tuesday, September 25
8:00 AM - 1st Anniversary, Helen Schneider
(Bob & Marianne Peters)
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM - Adoration in the Chapel

Wednesday, September 26, Saints Cosmas & Damian
8:00 AM - For those enrolled in the
Perpetual Memorial Society.
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM - Adoration in the Chapel

Thursday, September 27, Saint Vincent de Paul
8:00 AM - Ed Lampart
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM - Adoration in the Chapel

Friday, September 28, Saint Wenceslaus &
Saint Lawrence Ruiz and companions
8:00 AM - James Bambrick,
(Peggy Bambrick)
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM - Adoration in the Chapel

Saturday, September 29, Saints Michael, Gabriel
and Raphael.
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Adoration in the Chapel
5:00 PM - 8th Anniversary, Cathryn Rothenberger,
(Sandy Rothenberger)

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 30, 2018**

7:30 AM - Steve & Anna Cichocki,
(Bob & Sylvia Cichocki)
10:00 AM - For the Living and Deceased Members
of the Parish.

WE INVITE YOUR PRAYERS

For the sick, those in hospitals, nursing homes,
also for their caregivers; and all those we hold
close in our hearts.

Please pray in particular for: **Michael Goble,
Stephen Grayeske, Jim Kash and Michael
Quigley.**

For those who have died, grant them eternal rest
and peace.

PARISH NEWS

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

<u>September 17, 2017</u>	<u>September 16, 2018</u>
Envelopes: \$ 5,195.00	\$ 5,432.00
Online: 1,676.00	1,716.00
Loose: 915.00	719.00
Children's: 35.00	3.00
Total: \$ 7,821.00	\$ 7,870.00

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

October 2018

For those who do not receive Sunday collection
envelopes or if you are an on-line giver, the
following special collections are:

**All Souls, Mission Sunday
100th Anniversary**

HOUSE BLESSINGS

House Blessings may be arranged by calling or
emailing Shirley at the rectory Monday - Friday:
ofcmgr@spnparish.org. Your request will then be
recorded and then forwarded to one of the
Deacons who will call to schedule a visit.

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Our first Planning Meeting for the Anniversary Celebration of Saint Philip Neri Church will be held on Tuesday, September 25, at 7:00 PM in the Rectory Meeting Room.

If you would like to be part of this committee, please call or email Shirley at the rectory office. (ofcmgr@spnparish.org.)

Give a St. Philip Neri Perpetual Memorial

For a donation of \$50 or more, there is a beautiful Folder recording the gift and donor to be presented to the family.

In memory of **Anthony James Tunzola**; requested by: Joan Mullaney.

Boy Scouts Troop 591 Recent Activities

By: Jack Heibeck

Canoe Trip:

Troop 591 took a trip to the Delaware River in June. We canoed 14 miles on the first day and fished along the way. We set camp up for the night and ate pancakes for dinner. The next morning we canoed 10 miles to complete the trip. The scouts that went on this trip were: Mike Kuczkowski; Matt Quinones; Austin Farrington; Thomas Heibeck and Jack Heibeck.

Summer Camp:

Troop 591 went to Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation in July for seven days. While at camp, the scouts earned badges for Communication, Leatherwork, Camping, Game Design, Wilderness Survival and many others. The scouts used their open periods to swim, fish, zip-line and socialize with the troop that shared the camp. Both troops enjoyed playing the card game "Spit". The scouts that went on this trip were: Mike Kuczkowski; Matt Quinones; Austin Farrington and Jack Heibeck.

HOAGIE SALE AT SPN CHURCH!

Cheese, Ham, Italian or Turkey

Tuesday - October 2, 2018

Cost: \$5 dollars each

Pick-up only in Parish Hall

(NO DELIVERIES)

12:00 NOON - 6:00 PM

All orders must be placed by September 28th

Call Rita: 215.679.7009 or:

Janet: albertjanet299@gmail.com

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS COUNCIL #6614

Our Knights will be distributing Pro-Life Lapel Roses next weekend at all the Masses. Please take one or two and wear them to show your Support for Life. Don't let your burning candle burn under a basket; let it shine bright and show the world you care. All donations go to support Women Centers in the area. These centers help hundreds of women and their babies every year. God Bless you and your families.

SPN CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE CENTER NEWS

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE CFLC 2018 FALL/WINTER PROGRAM SCHEDULE IS MAILED OUT! The schedule is also available **online at www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com!**

ENTER TO WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD!!! CONTEST RULES ARE POSTED.

Deadline is this Sunday, September 23. Winners will be announced on September 26!

CFLC - October 17: non-perishable donations request for Mother of Mercy House in Philadelphia.

The SPN CFLC supports the Mother of Mercy House, a charitable organization that works to enhance the presence of the Archdiocese in Philadelphia in the Kensington and Allegheny neighborhoods.

Thank you for your continued generous support!

We are requesting the following for our OCTOBER 17 delivery:

- **Dry cereal**
- **Pasta and sauce**
- **Peanut butter and jelly**

Items can be dropped off Mon-Fri 8:30am-3:30pm at the CFLC, 26 E. 6th St., East Greenville (phone ahead 215.679.2237); before/after Mass in the vestibule donation box at St. Philip Neri. We will be happy to pick up your donation.

UPCOMING TRIP:

Saturday, October 6 - A DAY IN JIM THORPE, PA.

Enjoy a bus ride to Jim Thorpe to explore The Old Jail, Millionaires Row, museums, mansions, and shops! Also included is a Lehigh Valley Scenic Railway train ride through Carbon County to view the fall foliage from the comfort of vintage coaches. We will stop for lunch prior to leaving Jim Thorpe. 10:00 am - 3:30 pm (arrive at CFLC by 9:45; bus departs Jim Thorpe at 3:30 arriving at CFLC approx. 4:45 pm). Cost: \$45/person includes transportation and vintage train ride (does not include lunch).

REGISTRATION is extended to: this Sunday, September 23rd.

Sunday, October 14 – HAIL MARY: A Journey of the Blessed Mother through Art and History. Chesley Turner will explore the life of the Blessed Mother using beautiful imagery and iconography. This presentation will include historical art analysis, cultural history, and prayer/meditation. Learn more about the life of this most beloved of saints. See Flyer in today's Bulletin for details. Cost: FREE

RESIGTRATION REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 28.

JOYFUL HEART LOUNGE AND LIBRARY – All DVD Blu-Ray movies previously shown on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons are available to rent out for free! Also check out our periodicals and magazines; Hours are Tues/Wed/Thurs: 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. Please phone 215.679.2237 to schedule day and time.

Contest Rules for Programs

Deadline: this weekend - September 23, 2018

Win a \$50 Gift Card

Spiritual Programs

Please refer to the back inside cover for a list of spiritual programs being offered this semester. To qualify for this drawing you need to register for 5 spiritual programs and your name will be entered once in the drawing. Select 10 programs and your name will be entered twice.

Win a \$50 Gift Card

Mixed Programs

To qualify for this contest, you may select from the spiritual programs, general programs, special events or trips (movies are excluded). Select 5 programs and your name is entered once, select 10 programs and your name is entered twice, 15 programs and your name is entered 3 times. Beyond 15 programs any increment of 5 will permit you an additional entry.

Winners announced on Wednesday, September 26

SPN SENIOR CLUB CALENDAR 2018

September 26:

Luncheon - BINGO

October 11:

Bus trip to Penn's Peak:

"An afternoon with Dolly & Kenny"

10:00 AM Depart SPN Church Parking Lot

5:00 PM Return to SPN Church

October 24:

Luncheon/Halloween Party

November 14:

*Luncheon:

Honoring our Veterans – Missing Man

November 30:

Bus Trip to American Music Theatre: "The First Noel"

11:00 AM Depart SPN Church Parking Lot

7:00 PM Return to SPN Church

December 19:

*Luncheon

St. Mary's School, Seraphim Choir

St. Philip Neri Church

All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Breakfast!

Sunday: October 14th: 8AM-12PM

215.679.8116

Scrambled Eggs. Bacon. Sausage.

Scrapple. Chipped beef.

Home fried Potatoes. Cereal. Toast

Milk. Coffee. Hot Tea. 3 juices

Omelette Station: prepared to order - always with a minimum of 4 different ingredients.

Make your own Waffles:

Fix'n Bar: yogurt, granola, fresh fruit

Pancakes: plain and one topping

Egg Rolls for sale!

For every 100 sold breakfasts, one FREE will be given away!

Seniors (60 & up): \$8.00

Adults (11-60) \$9.00

Ages 4-11: \$5.00

4 & under: \$1.00

Checks & major credit cards are accepted.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

ARCHDIOCESAN PRAYER VIGIL of

September 26, – October 3, 10, 17, from 7-9PM.

Event: Do You Pray Like a Catholic? Are you interested in deepening your connection with God in prayer? Is your prayer time plagued by distractions and dryness? How do we discern God's voice in prayer? If you're asking yourself these questions, you may be interested in a 5-week course "Pray Like a Catholic," based on the four stages of prayer as taught by St. Teresa of Avila. This series, taught by Susan Brinkmann, OCDS, will include instruction (and practice) in mental prayer, meditation, contemplation, as well as tips

on discerning God's voice, handling distractions and dryness, and recognizing signs of advancing prayer. St. Agnes Church, Sellersville, PA; Cost is \$35 per person, payable on the first night. Call/text Susan at 215.983.9701 to register.

September 24, 2018 at 7:00 PM

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Lecture Series: Marriage and Sexual Morality: Where do things go from here? In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Humanae Vitae by Professor Robert George located at St. John Vianney Auditorium. For more information visit: scs.edu/Lectures.

September 30, 2018 at 11:00 AM

The Blue Mass

We will celebrate the Blue Mass to pray for local law enforcement officials, firefighters and first responders. We are grateful for their unwavering commitment and selfless dedication to the common good. This will be held at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

More information: cathedralphila.org/blu

St. Anthony's Relics to visit the Archdiocese

Saint Anthony will be visiting parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in the form of two precious and first-class relics from his Basilica in Padua, Italy from October 6 to October 9. The Relics will visit multiple parishes.

Visit: <https://bit.ly/2KYlrVR>.

Christian Reflections on Addiction

September 25 and October 2 7-9 pm (Tuesdays) Saints Peter and Paul Parish in West Chester will host WE THIRST: Christian Reflections on Addiction in September and October. This is a popular five-part series that not only educates, but also inspires compassion, faith, hope, love, and community action! Nina Marie Corona, M.A., C.R.S., is the facilitator (ninamari coronacom...). For more information or to register for this event, contact Judy at Saints Peter and Paul: (610) 692-2216, ext. 263.

Catholic Tent Revival - Sunday, October 7, 2018, 1:00-7:00pm

Join thousands of teens, adults, and families as we come together for The Catholic Tent Revival, a day of prayer, worship, fun and celebration of God's love for us. (This is a bilingual event.) Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA; No cost to attend; Registration required/malvernretreat.com/201...

AREA PARISH NEWS

Sun., Oct. 7 - Respect Life Sunday

2:00-3:30 pm

Main St. and 6th Ave, Collegeville

Stand with thousands of pro-life individuals throughout the USA and Canada in honor of millions of babies whose lives have been lost to abortion. Pray for people in crisis situations and for our nations. You'll be a light in a darkened world as you help put an end to abortion through prayer!

- Bring your whole family!
- Water, lawn chairs, umbrellas and strollers are welcome and encouraged!
- Rain or shine!
- Signs will be provided and proclaim "Abortion Kills Children", "Adoption - the Loving Option", "Jesus Forgives & Heals," "Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation," "Abortion Hurts Women," "Life - the first Inalienable Right," "Pray to End Abortion," among others.
- Please plan on participating in this peaceful and prayerful commitment on behalf of God's children.
- For more information contact Kathy Zavrotny at 610-489-3911.

AREA NEWS

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

We have an upcoming Retreat for healing after abortion. It is designed to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. It will help you focus on the buried emotions of the past and begin healing in a non-judgmental, safe, loving and confidential environment. It will give you hope for your future and freedom from the pain within your heart and soul. Post-Abortion Healing Retreat will take place October 12 - 14 in Malvern-Frazer. For information call Lauren at: 215.720.5828 or Priscilla at: 215.906.6337. All inquiries are strictly confidential. Financial aid offered if needed.

METANOIA

Metanoia is an active community of Catholic young adults in western Montgomery County.

Contact: metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com.

Tuesday: Sept. 25 - Holy Hour at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish in North Wales at 7:30PM.

IHM Sisters Oktoberfest

The annual IHM Oktoberfest will be held on Saturday, October 6 from 10 am - 3 pm on the grounds of Camilla Hall, located in Immaculata, PA. Join us for a fun-filled day of delicious food, crafts, children's games, white elephant flea market, and entertainment. Proceeds benefit Camilla Hall Nursing Home for the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM).



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

Sunday, Sep 23, 2018

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Race you to the bottom

We're bred for competition. In the ongoing contest for limited resources, we don't want to be without a chair when the music stops. Pitted against siblings for the finite attention of parents, the competition grows larger as we do. Schools bid us compete for grades and rank. Sports, video games, the car we drive, the job we get, the promotion we achieve, the money in the bank, are contests won or lost on the ladder toward greatness. Jesus says don't compete; serve. True greatness is a race to the bottom. Count the ways you're winning.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; James 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37 (134)*. "They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest."

Monday, Sep 24, 2018

Invite God to be your friend

It helps to think of the Bible as a "library," a collection of different kinds of books written at different times by diverse authors for a variety of purposes over thousands of years. Like any library, it is divided into sections, and one of those areas is known as "Wisdom literature," which deals specifically with wise actions in contrast to foolish ones: the Books of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Sirach, and the Wisdom of Solomon.

One of the messages biblical wisdom offers is the importance of friendship with God, and to be friends with God is reflected in how you are friends with others: not refusing to do good when you have the chance, not creating needless conflict, not being envious. Be this kind of a friend, and God will friend you back.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Proverbs 3:27-34; Luke 8:16-18 (449)*. "Say not to your neighbor, 'Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give,' when you can give at once."

Tuesday, Sep 25, 2018

We are family

While many English translations make it sound as if Jesus had brothers, confusion arises because Hebrew and Aramaic, the written and spoken languages of the day, lacked distinct words for *brothers*, *cousins*, and other close kin. When Christian scripture was written in Greek, the word *adelphos*—"brothers"—was used to represent all of those relations. So it remains unclear what kind of extended family Jesus might have had. What is clear is that Jesus saw blood relations as secondary to spirit relations. Those who follow Jesus are family to him. Claim your place in that gathering.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13; Luke 8:19-21 (450)*. "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."

Wednesday, Sep 26, 2018

MEMORIAL OF COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS

Doctors without fees

Many folks have heard of Without Borders, who selflessly bring medical care around the world in response to humanitarian emergencies and where it's most needed. But the idea of doctors who don't charge fees goes back to the second century, when, according to legend, Cosmas and Damian, twin

brothers from Arabia, combined their medical practice with their new Christian faith to become the “silverless ones,” practicing medicine without charge. Some parishes today recognize the need for affordable, accessible health care and sponsor “parish nurses” to assist with basic screenings and visitations. How does your parish attend to the needs of its most vulnerable members?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Proverbs 30:5-9; Luke 9:1-6 (451)*. “Take nothing for the journey.”

Thursday, Sep 27, 2018

MEMORIAL OF VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST

An angel on my shoulder

In his first inaugural address, President Abraham Lincoln hoped the nation would be “touched . . . by the better angels of our nature.” His imagery says a lot about life: We can take either the high road or the low. We can be selfish and angry, or generous and kind. Saint Vincent de Paul (1580-1660) knew both sides. He admitted he had a “caustic temper” and had to mind his “black and boiling moods.” He also wrote: “We should remember that Christ himself said that by gentleness we inherit the earth. If we act on this, we will win people over so that they will turn to the Lord. That will not happen if we treat people harshly or sharply.” By which angels do we choose to live, the better or the worse?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ecclesiastes 1:2-11; Luke 9:7-9 (452)*. “One generation passes and another comes, but the world forever stays.”

Friday, Sep 28, 2018

LORENZO RUIZ AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

One life to give

Lorenzo Ruiz (c. 1600-1639) was born in Manila. Married, with two sons and a daughter, he became a companion to Dominican missionaries who sailed for Japan despite intense persecution of Japanese Christians. In Nagasaki, facing torture, Lorenzo at first asked if, by giving up his faith, his

life would be spared. He received no answer but felt his faith strengthen to the point that he finally said, “I am a Catholic and wholeheartedly accept death for the Lord; if I have a thousand lives, all of them I will offer to him.” In 1987 Pope John Paul II canonized 16 Asian and European men and women who spread the faith in the Philippines, Taiwan, and Japan. Lorenzo Ruiz is the first canonized Filipino martyr. What does your faith inspire you to offer the world?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Luke 9:18-22 (453)*. “There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every thing under the heavens.”

Saturday, Sep 29, 2018

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

Help from on high

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Archangels. Michael, the chief archangel, is known as a defender of God’s people. *Michael* in Hebrew means “who is like God?” *Gabriel* is inseparable from the event of the Annunciation when Mary said “yes” to be the Mother of God. Gabriel’s name in Hebrew refers to the strength or power of God. *Raphael*, “God heals,” appears in the Book of Tobit as a protective, healing presence to both Tobias and his father, Tobit. Honor the archangels this day by looking for ways to incarnate the message that each of them represents. How can you be a source of safety for those in distress? In what ways can you spread the word that through God all things are possible?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12a; John 1:47-51 (647)*. “You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending.”

Shrinking to holiness: One Catholic's view of **the present crisis** **Share this story**

By Thomas A. Kennedy • Posted September 6, 2018

I suppose it is just another paradox of life that to get anything done in this world one must obtain and exercise power. And as soon as you do, your path to corruption begins.

I have been thinking about this a lot in connection with our church. Boston, Philadelphia, Ireland — all places where the church had real temporal influence, where priests, bishops and archbishops were respected, honored and trusted. Local churches struggling in out-of-the-way places don't seem to have fallen into the den of iniquity like these big influential archdioceses have. It's possible that it is just not reported on, but I doubt it.

I would imagine that a pastor in 1970s Alabama didn't enjoy the presumption of trustworthiness that a pastor in Ardmore, Pennsylvania enjoyed. As a result, this probably made our hypothetical priest a little tougher, a little more focused on the job. Maybe even a little holier? Who knows?

A work colleague recently traveled to Ireland and Scotland. In Ireland, the magnificent church was almost empty, and the only young people present were dragged there by parents. The priest lamented the lack of attendance by the next generation and frankly had no answers, and according to my colleague, seemed despondent.

In Scotland, the church was packed and vibrant. Catholicism has been a minority faith in Scotland for generations and cannot presume to command the allegiance of a majority of the citizens. Small, focused, holy communities — I have sensed it while attending church in South Carolina. These anecdotes reinforce a creeping sense that our church may have to shrink to holiness.

I am 57 years old. Pope John Paul II was elected while I was in high school. There was a man who obtained power and wielded it, but he didn't seem ever to be corrupted by it. Perhaps his power was deeper and richer, a power based on the Word and not on the world. Maybe in Philadelphia, in Boston, and in other big American cities we got too close to power, too comfortable with worldly success.

I also think a lot about the responsibility that the laity have for this situation. It's easy, and sometimes even appropriate, to express anger at the priests who acted in depraved ways and for leaders who failed to stop it or who enabled it. But what part did we play in the creation of a culture that would permit this to occur?

The laity were too deferential in many ways to the clergy and to the institutional church. We sent our children to Catholic schools, we went to Mass and thought our duty ended there. We failed to demand accountability.

I am afraid our lack of paying attention has created other problems that are yet to be revealed. I can't begin to imagine the scale of financial malfeasance. When a body is sick and corrupt in one part it generally affects other parts. Too much cash flowing through the system, like too much rich food flowing through the body, tends to make the body sluggish and susceptible to a continuing need to be fed in such a manner.

What this all means for bishops I do not know. I do know we need holy men more than ever. Archbishop Charles Chaput will no doubt be required to guide the Archdiocese of Philadelphia through some rough water; all options for shepherding this unwieldy structure are to be considered, I suppose.

It would have been easier to be archbishop during good times, when the church was growing and the bad news wasn't ever-present. Easier, but not more ennobling.

I can't really explain why I write this letter, but I feel a need to respond somehow. Anything that distracts Catholics and potential Catholics from the message is a problem. We have 2,000 years of the richest intellectual and spiritual wealth, and we have to preserve and propagate it. It may be presumptuous of me to write these thoughts, but I don't know what else to do.

***Thomas A. Kennedy is a member of St. Monica Parish, Berwyn



SPN CFLC SPECIAL EVENT

HAIL MARY: A JOURNEY OF THE BLESSED MOTHER THROUGH ART AND HISTORY

SUNDAY - OCTOBER 14, 3:00 PM
NERI CENTER, 575 MAIN ST. EAST GREENVILLE

Chesley Turner, Director of the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, will explore the life of the Blessed Mother using beautiful imagery and iconography.

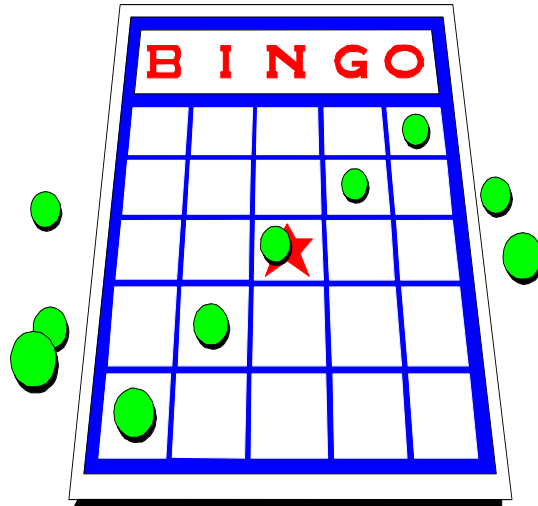
Hear about the insight of historical art analysis, the cultural history, faith tradition, as well as prayer and meditation. This 1 to 1-1/2 hour Presentation will also be accompanied by contemplative background music. Learn more about the life of this most beloved of Saints.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 28

REGISTER ONLINE:

www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com or phone 215.679.2237

ST. PHILIP NERI – SUNDAY BINGO



October 7, 2018

Working Team #2

Bingo begins at 1PM

Doors open at 12 NOON

Parish Hall

1325 Kliner Rd – Pennsburg

215.679.8116

All Regular Games Prize is \$50

Final Cover All-Special – Prize is \$500

Great food available!!